

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-11 FCC-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00 ACDA-19 DODE-00

PM-07 L-03 NASA-04 NSC-10 SCI-06 SS-15 FMC-04 CG-00

COA-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01 /144 W

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R 121745Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8093

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BE, TSPA

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE MEETING ADJOURNED

1. SUMMARY. EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE (ESC) MINISTERIAL MEETING
ADJOURNED EARLY AFTERNOON JULY 12 WITHOUT TAKING DECISIONS ON
IMPORTANT ISSUES. MINISTERS AGREED TO MEET AGAIN JULY 31. ONLY
NOTABLE DEVELOPMENT WAS ANNOUNCEMENT BY BRITISH OF ABANDONMENT
OF THEIR GTS MARITIME SATELLITE PROJECT AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO
TAKE MAJOR PART IN DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN MAROTS MARITIME
SATELLITE PROJECT. MOOD OF MEETING WAS UNDRAMATIC AND, APART FROM
BRITISH ANNOUNCEMENT, THERE WERE APPARENTLY NO SHIFTS IN KNOWN
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POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. DESPITE PREDICTIONS OF MAJOR CONFRONTATION OF CONFLICTING GERMAN, FRENCH AND BRITISH POSITIONS ON EUROPEAN SPACE POLICY, ESC MINISTERIAL MEETING PRODUCED NEITHER DECISIONS ON MAJOR OUT-STANDING EUROPEAN SPACE PROJECTS NOR ANY REAL GIVE AND TAKE ON POSSIBLE COMPROMISE SOLUTION. ACCORDING TO CHIEF OF GOB FONMIN SCIENCE SERVICE BOUHA, MEETING BEGAN WITH RESTATEMENTS OF NATIONAL POSITIONS. IT SOON BECAME CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS WERE NOT YET PREPARED TO MAKE COMMITMENTS ON ANY OF THE MAJOR SPACE PROJECTS; E.E., SPACE LAB, L3S LAUNCHER OR MARITIME SATELLITE. ESC PRESIDENT (AND BELGIAN SCIENCE POLICY MINISTER) HANIN, AFTER LUNCHEON DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER MINISTERS, NOTED THAT SOME DELEGATIONS WERE AS YET UNABLE TO MAKE FIRM COMMITMENTS AND PROPOSED ADJOURNMENT UNTIL JULY 31, WHICH PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED.

3. ONLY SURPRISE AT MEETING WAS ANNOUNCEMENT BY BRITISH THAT THEY ARE ABANDONING THEIR GTS MARITIME SATELLITE PROJECT IN FAVOR OF TAKING A MAJOR ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT OF ESRO'S MAROTS PROJECT. BOUHA WELCOMED THIS MOVE AS REMOVING ONE BARRIER TO EVENTUAL COMPROMISE SOLUTION WHICH MIGHT SHAPE UP AS GERMAN MANAGEMENT OF SPACE LAB (55 PERCENT PARTICIPATION), FRENCH MANAGEMENT OF L3S (60 PERCENT PARTICIPATION) AND BRITISH MANAGEMENT OF MAROTS PROJECT.

4. GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON POST-APOLLO COOPERATION WAS REPORTEDLY NOT DISCUSSED AT ANY LENGTH, SINCE NOT CONSIDERED RIPE FOR SOLUTION.

5. AT PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER ADJOURNMENT, HANIN ASSURED PRESS THAT MEETING WAS NOT A FAILURE BUT THAT CERTAIN DELEGATIONS WERE NOT YET READY TO GIVE PRECISE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED. HE NOTED THAT DECISION ON JULY 31 MEETING WOULD AFFORD TIME TO DEAL WITH REPLY TO US ON POST-APOLLO COOPERATION, AND HOPED THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES' POSITIONS WOULD BY THEN BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO SUPPORT PROJECTS IN WHICH THEY DO NOT HAVE A PRIMARY INTEREST.

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